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Meehan's Garden Bulletin

DECEMBER, 1911



Look at this beautiful grouping of plants. Would you imagine it was in the very heart of a large city? Read the article in this number entitled, "Gardening in the Heart of a City," and then do your part.

Published Monthly
by

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS
Nurserymen and Horticulturists Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

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SCARLET-BERRIED ENGLISH HOLLIES

Every season we get a fine lot of English Hollies (*Ilex Aquifolium*) from Europe, every plant loaded down with hundreds of the brightest scarlet berries. Showy is hardly an adequate word to describe them.

The glossy, green foliage adds to their attractiveness, especially when seen under artificial light.

What excellent plants to create distinct decorative effects!

How suitable, too, for Christmas presents—a solution to the trying question of selecting appropriate gifts.

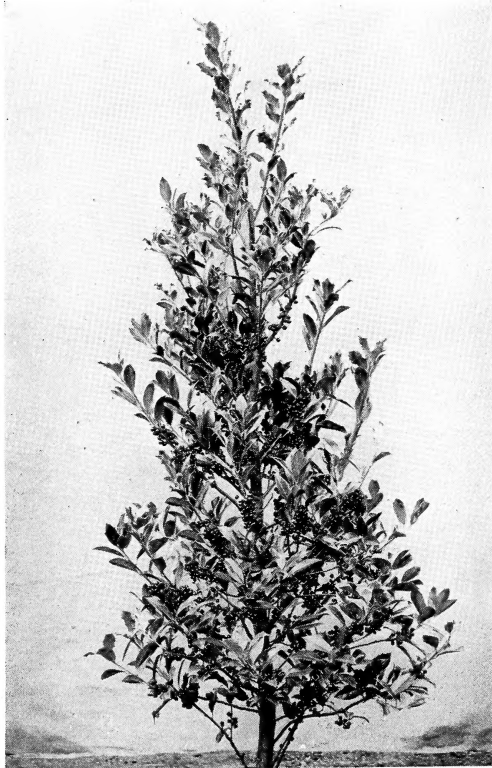
These plants will also answer a double purpose. After the holidays have passed and the leaves begin to drop, it is evidence that they want a rest. Place them in a frost-proof cellar or cold house and

keep until spring. Plant them out at that time in a sheltered position and experiment with them. We brought through a collection last winter without losing a plant. We know of others that have been growing in this vicinity for some years.

Now is the time to reserve some if you want them delivered for use at Christmas. There were not enough to go around last season. We expect them in about December 1st.

The following sizes will, as far as we know now, be about the grades we shall have and the prices at which they will sell:

- 3 to 4 feet, fine . . . \$4.00 each
- 3 to 4 feet, selected specimens \$5.00 each
- 4 to 5 feet, beautiful plants \$7.50 each
- 5 to 6 feet, specimens \$10.00 each



This shows an English Holly as they come across for use as decorative Christmas plants. Notice the hundreds of berries, all of the brightest scarlet. The foliage must be seen to be appreciated.

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

Meehan's Garden Bulletin

VOL. 3

Subscription 50 Cents a Year

DECEMBER, 1911

No. 4

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The Buddleias

EDWIN MATTHEWS.

DESPITE the fact that this family of plants comprises some sixty to seventy different kinds, we can really claim only four or five as being hardy enough to withstand our winters in this latitude.

Nearly all of the hardier ones are natives of China, and, like the majority of Chinese floral introductions, are noteworthy.

Those that have been proven hardy are *Buddleia variabilis*, *B. Lindleyana*, *B. intermedia*, *B. Veitchii* and *B. magnifica*. The latter is of recent introduction, and well bears out all its specific name implies.

It is a variety of *B. variabilis*, and seems to be quite as hardy as the type; its flowers are, however, much larger and of a deeper shade of lavender or purple.

As a class of plants the Buddleias are not well represented as yet in our gardens, mainly, I think, because of not being very well known, and possibly also to the fact that they do not thrive in every location.

To know these plants, however, is to like them, for in every case where the writer had occasion to call visitors' attention to these plants, it called forth both surprise and pleasure.

They are, perhaps (excepting the Witch-hazel), the latest of our shrubs to afford bloom, and, unlike the majority of flowering shrubs, have an indefinite season of flowering—i. e., they do not give us a single display of flowers, but, like a Heliotrope, they continue to bloom on main and lateral shoots from late July throughout August, September, and well into the month of October. Even at this writing (October 27th) there are still some stray flowers on *B. variabilis*, blooming cheerfully though winter's frost is in the air.

The fragrance of the flower will also com-

mend itself to all; it has the sweetness of Apple-blossom and Heliotrope combined and, withal, an inflorescence that is individual, and flowers of a subtle-modest blend of orange and lavender color.

The illustrations given do but give one a faint conception of the quantity of blooms on the plants.

Practically all growth, as seen in the picture, was made this season, and, like the Hydrangea and Althæa, it flowers on the current year's wood.



The Buddleia is a very strong growing shrub, responding quickly to severe pruning.



On close examination the flowers of the *Buddleia* will be found to have decidedly bright colors—orange, lavender and purple.

From this it will be observed that, while frost may kill back the plant to at least a point where the wood is hard and ripened, this does not spoil the plant's chances of success.

In any case, it is best to cut the plant back severely every season, so that strong growths are insured and consequently larger flowers obtained.

All the *Buddleias* like a sunny position, a well-drained location and a soil not too rich.

For all Northern latitudes, spring is the best time to plant them. For the warmer Southern States it is quite timely to plant now.

Two beautiful species not previously mentioned, but well adapted to the South, are *Buddleia globosa* and *B. Colvillei*.

The latter comes from the Himalayas, the former from Chile, and both can stand several degrees of frost, without the slightest permanent injury to the plant.

In the southwestern counties of England these two plants thrive admirably, attaining a height of twelve to sixteen feet, and flower profusely.

Southern Planting

ERNEST HEMMING.

There are very few plants that grow in the North that will not also grow south of the Mason and Dixon Line, yet some will do better than others in a given locality.

Altitude has a bearing on the flora of a country, as well as latitude. The mountains of Virginia and North Carolina give much the same flora as Pennsylvania and other more northern points, if proper allowance be made for differences in soil, exposure, location and other environments that influence the growth.

To illustrate, by a well-known and extensively planted tree: The peach will grow from Canada to Florida, but, as it gets north, it begins to be a little more particular as to exposure, soil, etc., to offset the extreme cold and late frosts. The same may be said of the grass that forms the lawns in the North, as one moves south of Virginia it becomes more difficult to keep it in good condition through the hot, dry summers.

It is a common human failing to admire and want the things we do not have, or are difficult of attainment.

The Northerner goes in ecstasies over the beautiful crepe myrtles so common in the South, and will go to a great deal of trouble to try and keep one alive over winter, while equally beautiful plants more suited to the locality are entirely overlooked.

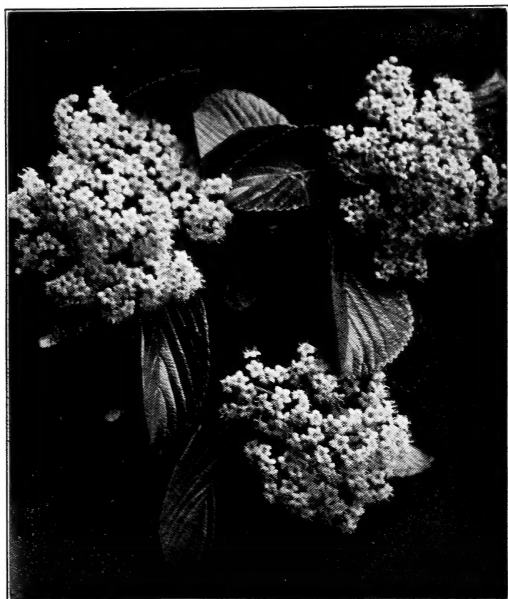
The greatest and most satisfactory returns are obtained by planting those shrubs most suited to the locality. These are usually the easiest to grow, and oftentimes the most common.

Being common makes them none the less beautiful.

To produce beautiful grounds, plant those things that have been well tried in the locality, but do not confine yourself exclusively to them. Introduce and try rarer and choicer things. Who knows but you may be the means of introducing a plant of great value in beautifying the neighborhood.

The plants of a large nursery are culled from every part of the world, and the discovery of a new plant of merit is hailed with much interest in the horticultural world. Then follow years of testing and propagation before it can be disseminated. A plant may be entirely unknown to you, but the nurseryman has very likely been growing it for years and can tell you all about it, and, if he is a thorough plantsman, can give you a valuable opinion as to whether the plant is worth trying in a given locality or position.

The possibilities of the southern gardens are barely known. What will they produce when they have as much thought and attention given to them as the English garden? How a northern gardener envies the possibilities that a free use of such plants as Japanese Evergreen Privet, Crepe Myrtle Aucuba, Holly, Euonymus, Abelia, Almond, Box and Magnolia give; to say nothing of the tender varieties of roses and a host of other plants that are only seen in an artificial condition under glass in a more vigorous climate! To travel through the South in those sections where roses have been planted and cared for is kinds that are the despair of the northern gardener.



The leaf of the *Clerodendron* closely resembles the *Catalpa*, but on examination is distinct. Note the cluster of flowers. They are quite showy.

Diversity of Texture of Shrub Masses

If you will consider a moment and count over the commonest of the shrubs, you will find that nearly all of the best-known favorites have comparatively small leaves.

This fact has considerable significance in its bearing on their landscape effect. Study, for a moment, an average grouping or belt of shrubs. Unless it is the work of an accomplished landscape gardener, you will find that the taste for old-fashioned shrubs has led to the use of all those kinds which have small leaves; at least few are large enough to give that pleasing variation of texture to the mass. As examples, see the Bush Honeysuckles, the Mock Oranges, the Barberries, the Dogwoods, the Golden Bells, the Hydrangeas, the Privets, the Lilacs, the Spiræas and the Weigelas.

The foliage of these shrubs and many others, while there is great variety in their forms, is so much of a size that, at any distance, the texture of the mass appears very uniform. To break up this sameness, it is necessary to have plants with larger leaves, so that there are larger expanses of light and shadow. You will find that the shrubs with bold foliage have also a distinctive habit of growth, which helps to accomplish the desired result.

The following few shrubs are especially useful for the purpose of diversifying the shrub planting. A brief description, which is appended, will make it very easy to use them judiciously.

Cercis Japonica (Oriental Judas Shrub or Red Bud). Heart-shaped leaves, three to five inches long, rich green and lustrous. The leaves turn yellow in the autumn. Tiny pea-shaped flowers of rose-pink, tinged with lilac, are borne profusely along the stems in the early spring.

Corylus (Hazels). Rounded leaves, three to six inches long, with a crinkled surface. Most of the varieties are green and remain so until the leaves fall. *Purpurea* has a deep, warm, purplish-bronze tone, which is retained until the leaves fall. The Hazels make bushes three to twelve feet high, according to the variety employed. All bear good nuts.

Clerodendron trichotomum. Leaves heart-shaped, large. Flowers white with reddish brown tubes, in August. Bush attains a height of ten feet. Of very graceful habit.

Chionanthus Virginica (Fringe Tree). Leaves oblong, four to eight inches long; dark green. Flowers in fringy panicles in late May. Makes a splendid shrub-tree, ten to twelve feet high. Enjoys a moist situation, but does not demand it.

Magnolia purpurea. Large, oblong leaves, four to seven inches, light green. Flowers large, white



The heavy, leathery leaves of the *Viburnum Sieboldi* are a rich, glossy green. It is a very uncommon shrub but worthy of a place on every lawn.

inside, purple outside. June. Attains a height of eight feet. A splendid plant for south of Philadelphia.

Viburnum Sieboldi. Oval leaves, three to six inches long, lustrous, dark green. Flowers white, in panicles. Makes a well-shaped bush, ten to twelve feet high. Especially beautiful for its polished leaves, which reflects splendid high lights.

R. P.



Note the wax berries of the Myrtle, the beautiful seacoast shrub. The foliage south of Philadelphia is almost evergreen.

Bayberry Dips

The *Youth's Companion* tells us in its own delightful way of making candles of the wax obtained from the fruit of *Myrica cerifera*, Wax Myrtle, under the title of "Bayberry Dips."

Anything that reminds us of the woods or fields is welcome at the Christmas season. This may account in a measure for the popularity of the Bayberry "dip," or candle, as a part of the holiday decoration, for the light-green color of the candle and the delightful odor of the burning wax both have a pleasant woody suggestion.

The Bayberry tree, or bush, grows along the Atlantic coast from Nova Scotia to Florida, and also on the shores of Lake Erie. In some parts of New England and Virginia it is very plentiful. After the first few frosts the berries become hard and waxy, and fit to gather.

After getting as many berries as you need, put them into a kettle of cold water and allow them to come to the boiling-point. This melts the wax, which will form on the surface of the water in a layer of delicate green. Remove this layer and allow the berries to boil as long as the wax continues to appear on the surface of the water. Strain the wax, which will then be ready to be made into candles. If the wax is too brittle, add a little tallow or white wax. It will keep indefinitely.

If you are fortunate enough to have a set of antique candle molds, you will find making the candles very easy. The homemade dips, however, are considered more desirable because of their irregularity of shape and old-fashioned look.

To make them, get either some ordinary candle wicking or some loosely twisted twine, and loop over a small rod or stick, so that when twisted together the ends will hang from the rod about seven or eight inches. This length is needed to allow for the wicking that will be wasted at both ends. As many strings can be dipped at one time as the rod and the wax-kettle will accommodate. Dip the wicks first into hot water and then into the wax, until your candle is of the right thickness—that is, from half an inch to two inches as you may wish.

Place the kettle of wax in a kettle of hot water, in order to keep it sufficiently soft. You may find it necessary to experiment a little to determine just what the temperature of the wax should be, since if it is too hot, the second dipping will remove the layer of wax put on by the first. When enough wax has formed on the wicks, place the rod between two boxes, or other supports, until the dips harden. They may then be trimmed and the ends cut to a uniform size. If the sides are too irregular, bunches may be removed by a hot knife-blade.

Gathering bayberries has never assumed the proportions of an industry, but there is a market for the wax, the price of which varies from twelve to twenty cents a pound. It is used to some extent by druggists, but its main use is for candles. Owing to its high melting-point, candles made of it stand up well when lighted, and are practical as well as ornamental.

Winter Pruning

Hundreds of "tree butchers" are now on the road, persuading owners of beautiful trees to allow them "to prune." Be on your guard. Get expert assistance. Pruning is a science, not job work.

Pruning Evergreens

ERNEST HEMMING.

“DO NOT prune evergreens” is a pretty safe rule to have, but there are times and conditions which sometimes make it advisable. Most evergreens have a very symmetrical habit of growth, and, if allowed to grow unrestricted in any way, will usually form a tree that cannot be improved upon, as far as symmetry and beauty are concerned.

Pruning is more likely to mar this beauty than enhance it. Years ago it was the fashion to clip Yew trees, Hollies, Bays, Laurels and other kinds of evergreens into grotesque shapes to represent all kinds of animate and inanimate objects, and doubtless at that time it was considered gardening art of a high order. There are many notable examples of this topiary work, as it was called, still to be seen in England and America. Hunnewell's, Wellesley, Mass., is the most notable in this country.

Without going into the question of which is the most beautiful, a tree naturally grown or one clipped to represent a peacock or some other form not common to the vegetable kingdom, the average person has little inclination to practice the topiary work of the past. Through ignorance, however, the average so-called gardener with his shears does little else upon the flowering shrubs under his care, reducing them all to the dull monotony of rounded bushes at the cost of their own bloom and naturally graceful habit.

To return to our subject of pruning evergreens, very young plants in the nursery do require a little clipping to get them well formed and trained in the way they should go, but even this is better done with pruning knife rather than shears.

Evergreens of the *Retinispora* type often make three or four leaders; if left to themselves one will eventually become the main leader, but the secondary ones will make such a strong growth that it forms a cleavage in the branches of the tree that is a weakness in the trees in snows and storms. This should be corrected in the young tree by pruning.

In trees of Spruce and Fir type no pruning at all is necessary, unless it be to repair an accident, such as the breaking of the leader by a bird alighting on it while it is still very young, when they are very tender.

In such an event the tree will likely form two or more shoots to take the place of the broken one. In this event cut back all but the

strongest and best-placed shoot, which will form the new leader or main stem of the tree.

Sometimes trees of this type are thin and not well furnished. If it be desired to thicken them up, it can be done by pinching back the new growth while it is young and tender. It should be done while the shoots are still so young that they can be pinched off by the thumb and finger.

The same remarks are equally applicable to the Pine trees, which are identical in growth to the Firs and Spruces.

When evergreens are planted for hedge purposes the situation is entirely altered, as the natural habit of the plants is entirely suppressed. Under such conditions it is well to thoroughly understand what might be termed their adaptability to pruning.

For convenience, they may be divided into two groups:

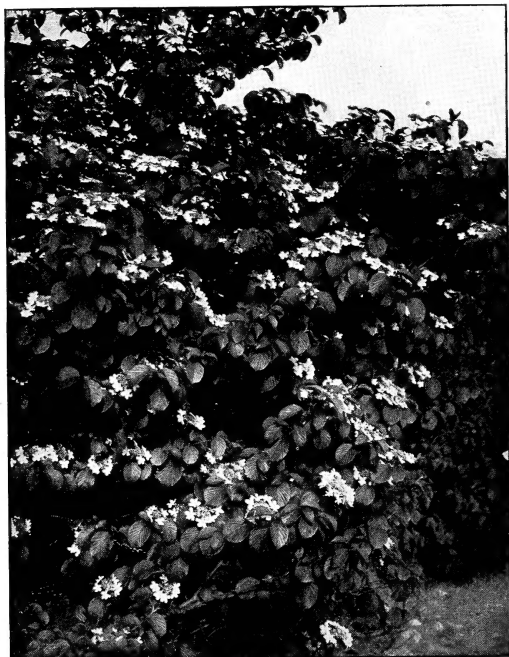
Group No. 1, such as Pines, Spruces, Firs and Hemlocks, cannot be depended upon to break from the old wood to any very great extent, and it naturally follows that if they are cut back very hard they will be bare stumps for a long time, if they ever recover. All the pruning or clipping that should be done consists of shortening back the new growth just about as it is completed in May or June. It can be readily seen that hedges should be formed of young plants that will grow together and be gradually formed by the annual clipping.

Group No. 2, such as Yews, Hollies, Box *Aborvitæ*, Portugal and English Laurels, *Osmanthus*, *Retinisporas*, break rather freely from the old wood, and may be cut back more severely with good prospects of their clothing themselves with new foliage. They, of course, make closer and more compact hedges. Larger plants—according to their kind—may be used, although if you want a perfect hedge without gaps and holes, well furnished right to the ground, you must start with rather small plants, say, not much higher than eight feet.

The clipping should be done about May and June, as with Group No. 1.

It is sometimes advisable, for the purpose of getting the very best color effects, to prune *Retinisporas* and evergreens used for this particular purpose. Practically all of them show their best color on the young wood. To get this young wood and to keep an abundance of

it, it is advisable to prune after the plant has made about half its growth. This, as already noted, gives best color effect and also keeps the plant compact. This pruning, however, should be very carefully done, so that the general character of the plant is not destroyed. Pinching back, as already described in this article, is perhaps the best method.



Note the beautiful foliage of *Viburnum tomentosum*. Fall turns it to rich bronze and maroon. The flat clusters of white flowers are additionally attractive.

Fall Coloring of *Viburnum tomentosum*

One of our young men, with an artistic turn of mind, gathered some of the leaves of the *Viburnum tomentosum*, and arranged them on a green plaque to bring out the rich coloring. They ranged through all the shades of rich, velvety brown to crimson, the green plaque acting as a natural background similar to the leaves on the bush still untouched by the frost. They looked too beautiful to be real when close attention was called to them.

Many kinds of leaves have more vivid fall coloring, but none have come under the writer's notice with quite the combination of good points in form, size and color. The leaves are a good size, about $4\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, beautiful in their

ovate outline and deeply serrated edges. Perhaps what makes them so rich is the deep veining and heavy, velvety texture.

The tomentose condition on the under side of the leaf doubtless has much to do with the perfect condition of every leaf, preventing insects from biting and mutilating them.

They are all so perfect as to appear almost unnatural.

Without flower or anything else to recommend it, this *Viburnum* is worth planting for fall coloring alone.

E. H.

Beware—The Landscape “Gardner”

It is quite a stretch from painter, whitewasher and otherwise handy-man to landscape gardener. But some make it, with very little effort. Here is evidence, submitted by a friend of ours, in the form of an advertisement. We have seen funnier ones, but this example must serve for the present:

ANDREW McCOMB

Landscape Gardner
and Painter

TELEPHONE 707-R

What is so amusing is the frank innocence with which the statement is made. Troubling not even to look up the spelling of the word “gardener,” Mr. McComb was evidently satisfied with the phrase, “Landscape Gardner.” Doubtless to him it means digging and cutting. Why should it mean anything else to others?

Many of these “Landscape Gardeners” can handle trees and plants well, so far as the actual planting is concerned. Oftentimes such a man comes in very handy in an emergency. We should therefore treat them with indulgence while they misuse the professional term, for they will soon realize their shortcomings and adopt a right name.

SPRING SPECIALTY CATALOG

Early in February we shall issue a catalog of special and unusual plants. It is one which will interest every person who has a garden large or small.

Would you like a copy? We will gladly mail one free.

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS,
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.



WILKES-BARRE, PENNA.

Would you advise planting Pæonies in front of my house—the house having a south to south-western exposure, getting sun only in the afternoon?

The exposure for the Pæonies is all right. The question is more one of soil location, amount of sunlight and moisture conditions. The Pæony likes a deep rich soil, with sufficient moisture in its growing and ripening period.

As you speak of putting them in front of the house, we suppose you may have in mind planting them right against the wall of the house, which is always a difficult place in which to establish plants. If this is really the point, then do all that you can to make the conditions as favorable as possible by refreshing with good soil, having the ground turned up to a good depth, and water them frequently in the summer time.

From another point of view, there is sometimes disappointment in the location of Pæonies in front of the house. If they have a very conspicuous position for the flowering period, they are not always wholly satisfactory if the summer is hot and dry, or if the family is away from home for a long period. If this be the case, you can keep the bed brightened by a few other things planted with them, such as Lilies interspersed, or a little border of plants around the bed. A few Pansies are very nice indeed. Gaillardias would also be effective.

A correspondent finds some confusion between Daffodils and Narcissus. In general explanation, *Narcissus* is the Latin name for a number

of varieties of bulbs, including Daffodils. All Daffodils are *Narcissus*. There are other *Narcissus* which are not known as Daffodils, the popular name Daffodil being applied commonly to those yellow flowers with long tubes or trumpets.

The various kinds of *Narcissi* contain many interesting forms and colors, and a great deal of interest could be got out of a large collection.

Will you kindly advise me, if possible, what blight or disease it is that is attacking my Hardy Chrysanthemums? The lower leaves, from the ground up, die gradually, and one border has almost disappeared, plants and all.

We do not like to say, without having seen the conditions under which the Chrysanthemums have been growing, just what has caused the blight.

However, one thing is certain, the plants must be deficient in vitality. This lays them open to attack from the blight.

Have these plants been out some time? Perhaps the roots have become matted and the food in the soil and nourishment generally has become deficient. If this is so, early next spring lift them, divide the clumps and reset them, giving each individual plant plenty of room.

Sometimes the condition is brought about by lack of moisture. This is hardly likely to be the case this season, unless they are located in a well-drained position, or where the water runs off from the surface without penetrating. Sometimes it is due to excessive shade.

In the columns of THE GARDEN BULLETIN I have noticed from time to time that some of the purchasers of Mallow Marvels were impatient because their plants were so late in starting into growth. As the Mallow Marvels are naturally late bloomers, it is not a matter of any consequence that their growth begins later. But if an earlier growth is wanted, it can easily be obtained. Take a window sash, or even a large pane of glass, fit a frame to it and place it over a Mallow plant, and the growth will be greatly hastened. On the 20th of last March I placed a sash over a plant and by the latter part of April a number of shoots were in sight, but other plants not so covered did not send up any shoots until several weeks later.

WALTER STAGER, Esq.,
Sterling, Ill.

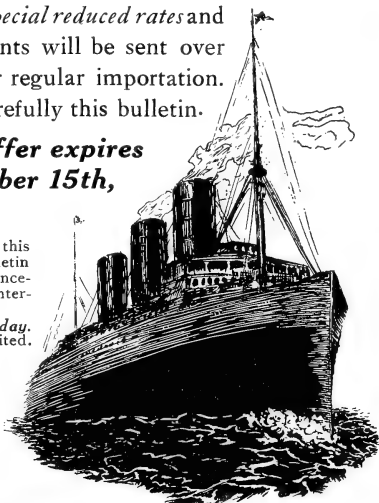
Special Import Bulletin

JOIN with us to import for you personally, direct from Europe, some beautiful evergreens which will arrive just in time for spring planting. Order now at special reduced rates and your plants will be sent over with our regular importation. Read carefully this bulletin.

**This offer expires
December 15th,
1911.**

Send for this special bulletin if this announcement is of interest.

Write to-day.
Time is limited.



THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS
Pioneer Nurserymen of America
GERMANTOWN, PHILADELPHIA, PENNA.



Golden Cornflower

A most unusual, interesting and pretty perennial, *Centaurea macrocephala*, is an invaluable member of the Cornflower group.

The foliage in itself is interesting in its odd arrangement, but the flower-head is very wonderful. It first appears, nestling in leaves, a brown-scaled globe, sometimes two and three inches in diameter.

When the stems are full-grown, three or four feet high, these brown globes spurt golden rays from their tops, until they appear like large paint brushes, dipped in radiant color.

R. P.

The English Ivy (*Hedera Helix*)

A HOUSE PLANT FOR CHRISTMAS.

When almost everything is bare on our garden walls, we can best appreciate the Ivies.

For walls and fences, not too much exposed to sun in winter, they have no equal, and whoever is in doubt as to what to plant in a cold and bleak position should fall back to the Ivy.

Some of the variegated varieties are excellent to brighten the walls and house fronts, or may be used for edging raised beds. It is an especially fine plant to use as a cover for graves.

The Ivy is one of the best plants for forming a good clothing for pillars, stone posts, gateways, etc.

Grown in a tub, staked and trained in pyramid form, they can be used as a porch plant or in any of the various positions in which trimmed Box, Bay trees, etc., are used, and with equal effect.

The Ivy will stand considerable rough treatment, and for that reason would make a good house plant, especially at Christmas time, if grown for that purpose.

W. LAMB.

GARDENING BOOKS For Christmas Gifts

To the enthusiastic garden lover the gift of a book treating on gardening is sure to prove most acceptable. He reads it, which is more than can be said of general books on the market. As a suggestion, here are some of the most popular:

"How to Make a Flower Garden,"	\$1.88	postpaid
"How to Plan the Home Grounds,"	1.10	"
"Garden Making,"	1.66	"
"Pruning Book,"	1.66	"
"The Practical Garden Book,"	1.08	"
"A Woman's Hardy Garden,"	1.87	"
"Another Hardy Garden,"	1.87	"

In addition to these we have many others catalogued, devoted to horticultural, agriculture and allied subjects. Send for our circulars. Address "Book Department."

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

Gardening in the Heart of a City

On Walnut Street, Philadelphia, between Tenth and Eleventh Streets, a year ago, a building was razed, leaving a vacant lot, of which there are hundreds similar in appearance in other cities.

The Western Savings Fund Society's building bordered this lot on the south, and its officers, realizing the possibilities from judicious planting, had it properly graded and planted, and the result is to be seen in the illustration on the cover of this month's BULLETIN.

This illustration shows only the planting on the south side, a similar grouping of plants being on the opposite border.

There is a sermon in such work as this.

Here is an illustration of what can be done by civic societies for the betterment of conditions in a large city.

Such work, however, should not necessarily be shouldered by such societies. It may well be done by the adjoining business houses, for good business reasons.

Take, for example, the present case. This garden is unquestionably a good advertisement for this savings fund, and at the same time gives the employes a restful scene to be enjoyed daily.

The gardener who gives such good care to this planting is P. Walker Malcolm. He is to be congratulated on the success produced.

For the information of those wishing to get a similar grouping of plants, we give below the names of the plants used:

Japanese Holly—*Ilex crenata*.

Hybrid Rhododendrons.

Tree Box—*Buxus arborescens*.

Pyramidal Arborvitæ—*Thuja occidentalis pyramidalis*.

Chinese Arborvitæ—*Biota Orientalis*.

It is Mr. Malcolm's intention to create periodical effects by a careful selection of perennials, bulbs, etc., for use along the borders. This is an excellent idea.

Let other business houses follow the example of this company, and we will have cleaner and better cities.

Destroying Pests

The present is an excellent time in which to hunt cocoons and egg clusters and destroy them. Also spraying at this time checks the spread of scale next Spring.



Meehans' Plant Book

for 1912 is ready

This plant book is a most valuable one, the result of careful compilation from previous catalogues and our long experience as nurserymen as well. In the early autumn it was first issued and that edition completely exhausted within three days. The second edition is ready and we have sufficient copies to satisfy all demands. This book is for the use of the home garden owner who is unacquainted with the plants most commonly used in lawn and garden planting. It is not an exhaustive treatise on plants nor does it begin to list the thousands we have growing in our nurseries.

If you feel the need for this book we shall be glad to send you a copy.

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.



**New, Revised 1912 List
of Old-fashioned**

HARDY CHRYSANTHEMUMS

Are you among the thousands who admire the old-fashioned hardy chrysanthemums? Do you share in their glorious autumn display of cheering blossoms?

Our prize-winning collection of varieties is known to all who are in the least interested in these wonderfully adaptable autumn flowering perennials. If you are interested and intend having some reserved for Spring planting, ask us for this list.

By placing your order with us at this time instead of late Spring you insure yourself against disappointment. Last year we were compelled to return many orders—stock being exhausted.

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.



Irish Junipers

These plants look like sentinels. Straight, upright and formal, they lend themselves so readily to indoor use.

Last year we could not begin to get enough to satisfy demands. This season the plants are larger and finer in every way. They will sell rapidly. Speak early if you want some.

These fine specimens are 5 to 6 feet high, exclusive of the height of the green pail in which they are planted.

In green pails, \$3.00 each

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS
Germantown, Phila., Pa.

"Your GARDEN BULLETIN at hand—a splendid, entertaining and instructive publication, with more 'meat' in it than is contained in any garden magazine now being published."

This comment comes from a well-known horticulturist and writer, who knows the difference between practical and theoretical information.

Another prominent writer on gardening subjects, whose name you will quickly recognize, if we mention it, said:

"It will give me great pleasure to mention the GARDEN BULLETIN from time to time and your catalogue as well, as Meehan's stand first in my affections as nurserymen."

Are you going to share in the good material we are planning for the coming numbers of the "Garden Bulletin?" These numbers will be improvements on past issues. Can we say more? Decide now to have the "Garden Bulletin" for 1912. 50 cents pays for a year. A dollar bill for two years, or send it as a gift to a flower loving friend in addition to your subscription.

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

Chrysanthemum Shows of 1911

The Chrysanthemum Shows this fall, held as usual in nearly all of the horticultural centers, were very successful. Not only were the flowers larger and better and the exhibits more numerous, but the attendance, and this really determines the success of a show, was greatly improved.

The Elberon, N. J., Society made a departure and held their exhibit in the new Casino at Asbury Park. Tuesday evening, the first day of the show, saw 1400 flower lovers in attendance, and the following afternoon and evening attendance was in keeping with this good start. The special Asbury Park prize of \$100 for the best fifty blooms of Chrysanthemums in several varieties was carried off by William Verd, gardener at "Castle Gould," Port Washington, N. Y.

Adding greatly to the interest of the exhibition was the display of fruit and vegetables. Monmouth County Apples clearly maintained their high reputation, and were much superior to the Western fruit also exhibited. The members of the Elberon Society are already talking of a summer show, to be held in the Casino in June or July. Such a show at such a center as Asbury Park would be a treat indeed.

Among the new varieties shown at nearly all the exhibits this fall, the new White Chrysanthemum, William Turner, came in for much praise. It is a huge flower of very pure color. It is an introduction of the famous English grower, Wells, and is named for William Turner, of Oceanic, N. J., one of the best-known and most successful private growers in the East.

The hardy varieties were much in evidence, and are so truly a flower of the masses that they suffer but little, if any, in comparison with the huge blossoms of the greenhouse varieties. Many vases of beautiful early-flowering single kinds were shown. Could not these be made more popular by treating them as annuals? Our gardens need brightening up in the early fall, and no flower will provide such a wide range of color and prove so generally satisfactory for such a purpose.

It was a rare treat to see so many Orchids displayed this year. Beautiful varieties, both old and new, and wonderfully arranged. At the annual show in Horticultural Hall, Philadelphia, Louis Burk, an orchid enthusiast, with a splendid collection, staged an exhibit in a glass case that was one of the striking features of, by far, the

best show Philadelphia has seen for many years. The varieties were rare, splendidly grown and arranged with exquisite taste.

The Tarrytown, N. Y., Society held its exhibition in the Music Hall, Tarrytown, and displayed the best flowers and plants grown in this far-famed horticultural center. Here the prize for the best table decoration attracted a great deal of attention. The prize-winning arrangement was a simple but very beautiful decoration of pink roses and smilax. Ladies of the society judged this class.

S. V. W.

Winter Protection

A few of the roses, such as *Rosa rugosa*, need very little protection. It is sometimes advisable, in the case of *Rosa rugosa*, to mulch quite heavily with strawy manure, late in the season. This will hold the snow, and prevent freezing and thawing during the winter. The more tender varieties, such as the Ramblers, may be laid on the ground late in the season, and covered with soil; or, if this is not convenient, a heavy covering of straw or hay may be placed over them. Tar paper or boards, or both, may be placed on top of this in such a way as to shed water. The important point to remember, in the protection of outdoor roses over winter, is to protect the plants from becoming wet at any time during the winter. It is usually a good plan to trench alongside of the plants as they are laid down, to prevent water running in and causing the plants to become wet and decay. The covering should be done quite late, so that mice and other rodents will have found other places to nest, and will not be so apt to work in the covering material. They, however, may be poisoned by the use of tin cans in which corn soaked in strychnine or some other poison has been placed. Do not have tar or tar paper near any of the plants, as the sun is apt to heat this and it oftentimes gives off fumes and chemicals that are injurious to the plants.

It is better to leave most of the pruning until spring; then, as they are uncovered, prune back to the desired distance. Some pruning, however, is very often necessary before fall, for convenience in laying down.

Herbaceous perennials are usually protected by covering with straw or strawy material, in such a way that no water will settle around them, and also so that the snow will not pack



Fern-Leaved Arborvitae

The crested foliage of this very dark green arborvitae is highly ornamental.

In addition the habit is close and compact, yet upright, developing a pyramidal evergreen of great beauty. Splendid specimens in limited quantity. 3 to 3½ feet high.

\$2.25 each

Globe Arborvitae

Round balls of dark green describes these pretty, formal evergreens as well as any description we might give. They must be seen to be appreciated.

Not too large for general use—large enough to make a good display.

The plants are a foot and a half tall and just as broad. All are in green pails.

\$1.50 each

Victoria Arborvitae

A most unusual evergreen in appearance. Over the rich green foliage are flecks of white giving a decidedly distinct result.

This arborvitae was named after the late Queen Victoria.

We selected it especially for use in tubs at this season as being unusual and sure to attract the attention of everyone.

In green pails 2 to 2½ feet high.

\$2.50 each

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.



A well-developed specimen of *Cypripedium insigne*. With good care and other conditions normal, such results are not unusual.

A Beautiful Orchid AS A HOUSE PLANT

The *Cypripedium insigne* is a highly attractive orchid, bearing dainty, graceful flowers of which the illustration appearing in this number hardly does justice.

The flower is, in color, a pretty blending of yellow, green, reddish-brown and white.

To describe it accurately, however, is impossible; it must be seen to be fully appreciated. When cut, the blooms will keep for at least two weeks in water.

In addition to these graceful and delicate flowers are the highly decorative leaves of a rich, glossy green. They make bushy specimens of our plants.

Try a few. You can have no trouble in growing them as they do well in a room with the temperature at 40° or 50°. Our plants are in beautiful condition.

Plants in 5-inch pans, 2 to 3 flowers each,
\$1.50 each, 5 for \$6.00.

Plants in 6-inch pans, 3 to 4 flowers each, bushy,
\$2.00 each, 5 for \$10.00.

Plants in 8-inch pots, 5 to 7 flowers each, extra
heavy, \$3.50 each, 5 for \$14.00.

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS, Germantown, Phila., Pa.

so heavily over them as to smother the plants. Board frames, or something of this sort, to shed water, are always desirable.—*Le Roy Cady, Minnesota University Farm.*

A Bugaboo in the Garden

Most persons are almost obliged to be credulous in taking advice about plants. Experience and technical knowledge in gardening, while happily spreading, are nevertheless possessed by few.

One of the unfortunate obstacles to the introduction of new plants to a neighborhood, and the consequent heightening of interest, is the prevalent tendency of prejudiced persons to discourage the transplanting of stock grown in other States, where there are seeming climatic differences.

It is quite true that in a vast country such as ours climatic extremes are so great some plants could not be successfully interchanged; but this fact is being grossly exaggerated. All horticultural works are inclined to fix a middle point where radical changes take place, at Washington, Philadelphia, or Boston.

In the Central States this pivotal point may lower; on the Pacific Coast it may rise northward.

Plants raised at these central points are well suited to a particularly wide range of planting—not for physiological reasons, necessarily, but because of climatic conditions favorable to shipping in different directions.

One cannot be guided merely by latitude. Virginia is a good illustration of varying conditions within a State; Texas is a still better one.

In the western section of Virginia, at higher altitudes, natural plant life and planting seasons are very similar to those of Pennsylvania. The Virginia coast is essentially a Southern climate, horticulturally.

These statements are not theoretical, but based on an intimate knowledge of the exchange of plants from one section to another.

Northern plants, properly chosen, may do well in the South, for *they are* doing well there; far northern sections may entertain thoughts of consignment from farther south, for *they are* doing well there.

There are now many reliable sources for information on these points, and it is quite inexcusable to permit prejudices and false prophets to debar the interested person from the hundreds of charming plants that are open to choice.

S. MENDELSON MEEHAN.

Falling Leaves

It was interesting to note the order in which the trees shed their leaves the past fall.

In this locality (Philadelphia) the season was a very poor one; the wet weather and wind marred the autumn glory of the foliage just at the time it should have been at its best.

The first to come down were the Carolina Poplars. There is nothing to recommend the Poplar in a locality where better trees will thrive. It means "anything so it will grow quick," which is about the only thing that can be said in its favor.

Black Walnuts lose their leaves almost as soon as the Poplars, and one cannot say much in favor of the beauty of this tree, except, maybe, the characteristic habit of branching when seen against the winter sky. It has, however, the qualities of valuable timber and nuts.

Catalpa, Silver Maple, Green Ash, American Linden, *Magnolia acuminata*, and Elm, all fell early, turning brown and lacking those vivid tints so beautiful among the hard-wooded trees. It is not to be understood they were entirely devoid of pleasing color; the Silver Maples are oftentimes very beautiful, but this season the wet weather brought them down in anything but a blaze of glory.

The Norway Maple, Sugar Maple, Red Maple and different kinds of Oaks, Chestnuts, and the Tulip Poplar all fell about the same time, and in falling made their departure in colors that made us regret their going even in the wind and rain.

The trees that held their leaves the longest were the Beech, *Salisburia*, *Ulmus parvifolia* and *Magnolia glauca*.

There was no uniformity in the fall of leaf of the various kinds; often a tree would be seen in a row of the same kind in full foliage, while the others had already fallen, due no doubt to some inherent quality of the individual tree or its position.

E. H.

START NOW

Before you know it spring will be with us. Why not begin your subscription to the GARDEN BULLETIN with the January number? When April arrives you will be ready for work, backed by dependable information from the BULLETIN.

Send your 50 cents to-day.

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS.



CHRISTMAS TREES

GROWING IN GREEN PAILS

NOT cut trees, but actual living plants, bright green in color, in painted pails. These bushy trees, 2 to 2½ feet high, and almost as broad, are as perfect as can be grown. Always bright and green, as long as you wish to use them, if given good, ordinary care.

Use them as a center decoration for the Christmas holidays. Decorate them for the children's nursery, use them in the reception room or in the conservatory. They are cheery in appearance and well suited for holiday decorations of all kinds.

After they have answered their purpose, place them in a cool, frost-proof room, and when spring arrives plant them out. They serve a double purpose, at an insignificant cost.

Reserve your tree **now**, before the last days previous to Christmas arrive, as stock is limited and the demand always great enough to use all growing in pails. They've been in the pails six weeks, an assurance of high quality; avoid freshly potted plants.

2 to 2½ feet, bushy,
in green pails **\$1.50 each**

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YOUR HOME GROUNDS

*may be more harmoniously planted with beautiful
trees and plants by learning of our new
plan for lawn and garden planting*

TO satisfactorily plant the home grounds, whether less than a half-acre in extent or covering many acres, knowledge of plants and conditions is necessary. Thousands of properties on which have been spent a great deal of money do not begin to repay their owners for the expense and effort. Why? The result of haphazard planting with no practical guidance.

For almost sixty years we have been solving planting problems for suburban property owners. Our work has been broad, covering economically the very

small properties as well as estates of many acres. Just now we have plans which make it possible for us to give assistance to all property owners in a most thorough manner and at a minimum expense.

Now is the time to plan for Spring work if you would have it be permanently satisfactory.

If this idea interests you ask us to mail you our new booklet entitled "The New Meehan Plan for Lawn and Garden Planting."

It is free for the asking.

Thomas Meehan & Sons, Germantown, Phila., Pa.